

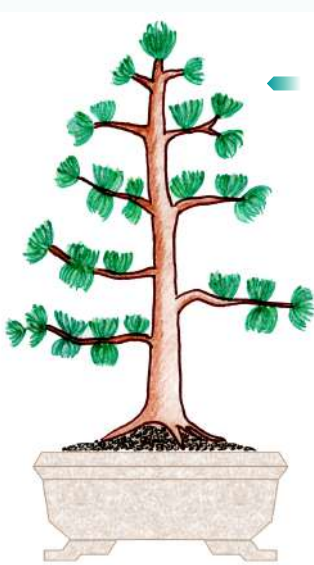
BONSAI STYLE CHART

In the art of bonsai, there are six classic bonsai styles and an increasing number of non-classical bonsai styles.

The **classical bonsai style** is rigidly defined and based on the trunk's shape.

On the other hand, in **non-classical bonsai styles**, the overall shape, number of trunks, planting method, or another aspect of the tree determines the style. Generally, these are more vaguely defined.

CLASSICAL BONSAI STYLES



FORMAL UPRIGHT (CHOKKAN)

The trunk of the tree is upright and straight all the way to the top, tapering uniformly from base to apex. This bonsai style is most frequently used and associated with conifer bonsai trees.

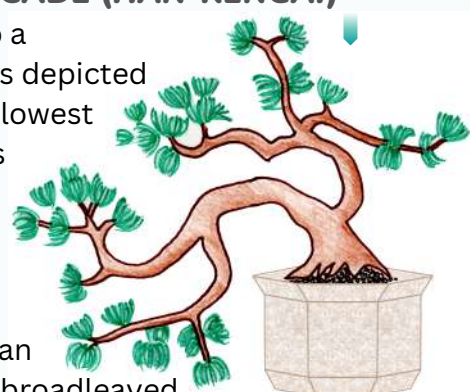


SLANTING (SHAKAN)

A variation of informal and formal upright styles. The trunk can lean to the right or left. Conifers or broad-leaved species are generally suited to this style.

SEMI-CASCADE (HAN-KENGA)

A tree clinging to a mountain ledge is depicted in this style. The lowest branch cascades below the pot rim. Most commonly, it is used for conifers, but it can also be used for broadleaved plants.

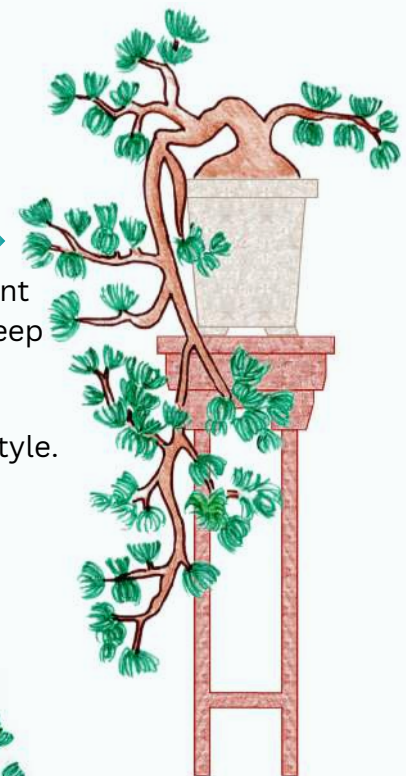


INFORMAL UPRIGHT (MOYOGI)

The most common bonsai style. From the base up to the apex, the trunk presents a series of curves diminishing in size. Furthermore, a uniform taper is usually present as well. Suitable for conifers and broadleaved trees.

CASCADE (KENGA)

In the style, the tree's lowest point must be below the pot's base. Deep pots are ideal for this style (and semi-cascade styles) of bonsai. Conifers are best suited to this style. Broadleaved species, on the other hand, may suffer weakening at their bases.



NON-CLASSICAL BONSAI STYLE



WINDSWEPT (FUKINAGASHI)

Creating this style successfully is challenging. It must appear that the tree lives on a windy, exposed hillside rather than falling over. This style is suitable for any tree species.



BROOM (HOKIDACHI)

The trunk is straight. The branches fan out, forking to form a small, symmetrical canopy.

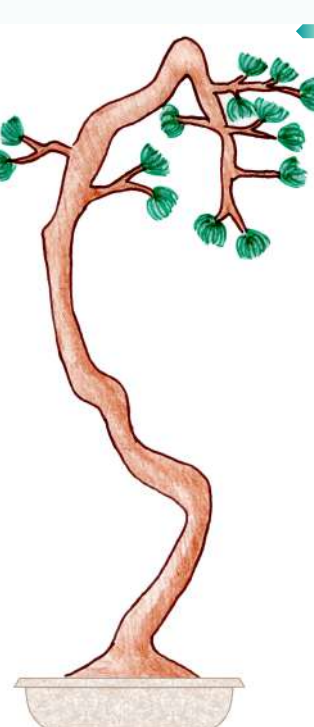


DOUBLE TRUNK (SOKAN)

In most cases, both trunks grow from the same root system. However, it's possible for the smaller trunk to emerge from the larger trunk above ground. There is a difference in thickness and length between the two trunks. The thicker and more developed trunk grows nearly upright, while the smaller trunk grows slanted.

TWIN TRUNK (SOJU)

This bonsai style is achieved when a tree grows from the soil with two trunks. The bonsai twin-trunk tree can be created by planting two or more trees very close together or by starting with a tree with multiple trunks.



LITERATI (BUNJINGI)

This style is named after a group of Chinese scholars who developed it. In this style, there is a single conifer with a slim trunk and minimal foliage. It depicts a tree that once stood at the edge of a forest, but is the only one left standing. Conifers, usually pines, are suitable.



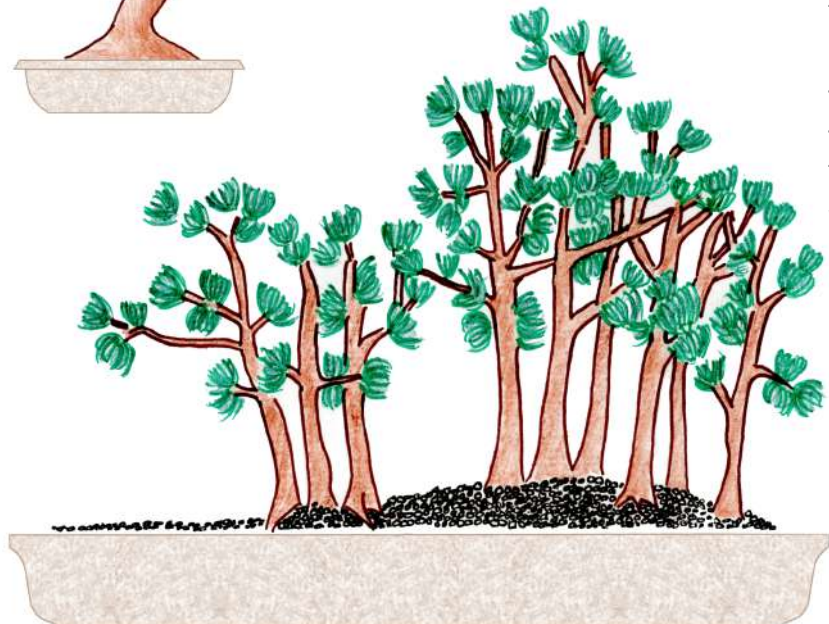
SPLIT TRUNK (SABAMIKI)

The trunk is torn, split, or bare in parts. This deadwood bonsai technique creates a split in your tree's trunk for aesthetic reasons. This style is sometimes confused with driftwood bonsai style.



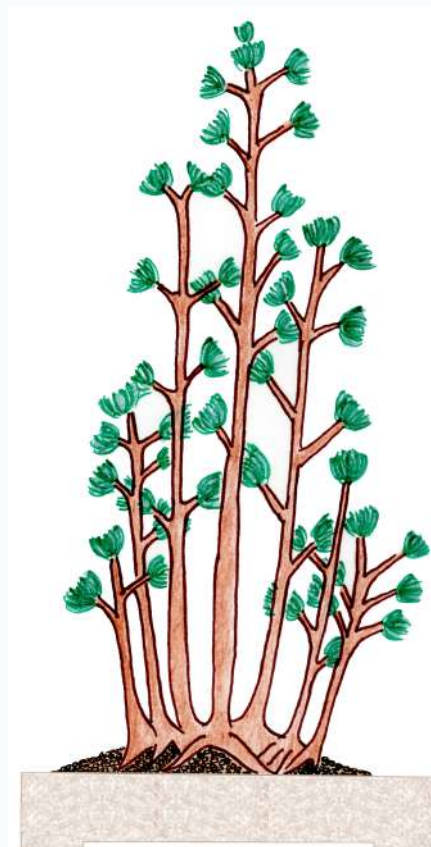
DRIFTWOOD (SHARIMIKI)

A technique for styling bonsai that is more advanced. Tree trunks are stripped of their bark like dead trees. Make it look like an old juniper or pine tree with missing bark, exposing the white inner trunk. This bonsai style is best suited to plants with thick trunks.



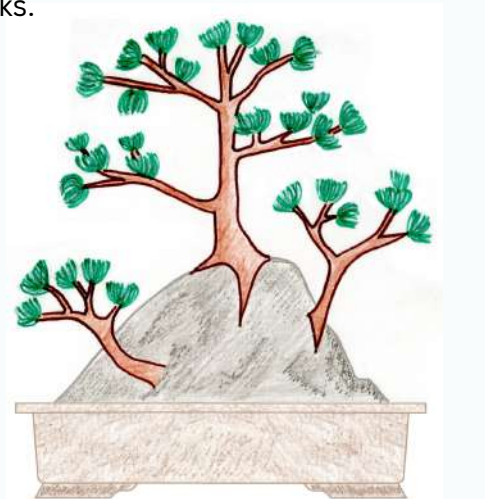
FOREST (YOSE-UE)

Any number of trees can be used, as long as they have symmetrical lines and differing trunk thicknesses. Generally, odd numbers of trees are used. Small-leaved species are usually preferred.



CLUMP (KABUDACHI)

Looks like multiple trees, however it is just one tree since all the trunks grow from a single root system. A single canopy is formed by all trunks. The largest and thickest trunk forms the top.



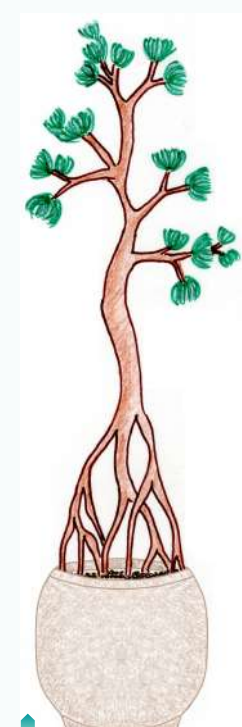
PLANTED IN ROCK (ISHITSUKI)

This style mimics a tree that is growing on or through rocks. It is also known as "root in rock" or "growing in rock".



ROOT-OVER-ROCK (SEKIJOJU)

This depicts a tree growing on the rocky bank of a river. Flowing water eroded the soil around roots and exposed them. The roots tightly wrap around the rock. Conifers or broadleaf species with thick sturdy roots are best suited to this style.



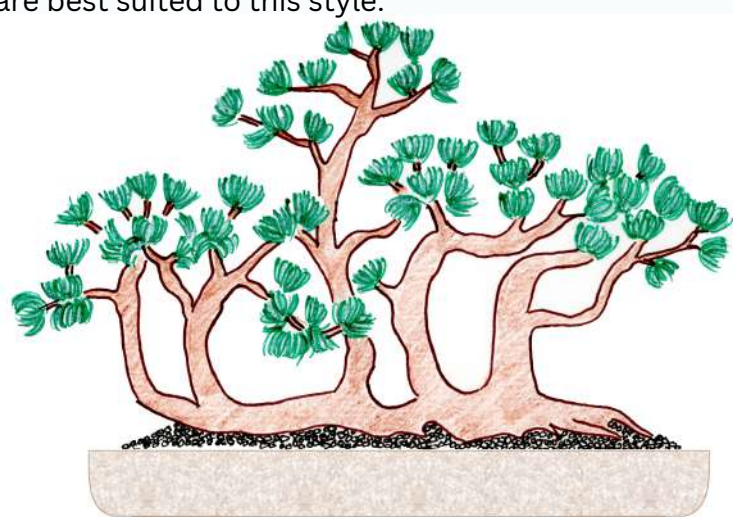
EXPOSED ROOT (NEAGARI)

This dramatic style is similar to root-over-rock, but without the rock. It is rare, difficult to create, and therefore highly valued.



SPIRAL TRUNK (BANKAN)

This style was very common in China. However, now it's quite rare. A somewhat unnatural style where the trunk is artificially spiraled or twisted. Any tree species can be used in this style.



RAFT (IKADABUKI)

Trees that fall may re-grow after re-growing new roots from a part of their trunk. The branch of the tree re-grows to the extent that they resemble multiple trunks. In general, this bonsai style follows the guidelines of forest bonsai. Both conifers and broadleaved species can be used.



WEeping (SHIDARE-ZUKURI)

Creates the illusion of a tree that droops or weeps, evoking elegance and tranquility. Weeping bonsai symbolizes the fleeting nature of life and adds a peaceful ambiance to any space.

